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Oberlin College Commencement.

The past and the present are the great weeks of the year at Oberlin. The recitations of the Institution were mostly suspended on Saturday, August 14th, and the entire week following was devoted to the examination of the classes in the Theological, Collegiate, and Preparatory Departments, and to the usual Anniversary Exercises. The number of persons from abroad in attendance was quite large, and the Exercises passed off in a commendable and satisfactory manner.

The exhibition of the Senior Preparatory Class was held on Tuesday afternoon, and with credit to that Department of the Institution. On Wednesday morning the Theological Society held its Anniversary, on Friday the Young Men's Lyceum, and on Saturday the Phi. Delta. The attendance at the Anniversary was large, and the exercises were very creditable to the students and Oberlin College.

On Monday evening the Address before the Literary Society was delivered by President H. L. HIRSHCOPE, of Western Reserve College. His subject was "Self Improvement." The audience was large and paid a high compliment to the worth of the Address, by giving profound attention during its whole delivery.

Tuesday forenoon, August 24th, the *Convocation* was delivered by the Rev. S. W. COCHRAN, of Andover, Michigan. Mr. COCHRAN is a graduate of Oberlin, a man of mind and mark, and his masterly discourse was an honor to himself and his Alma Mater. The speaker clearly defined the law of God and reason, conscience, the God of Justice, the God of Love, man's duty to God and man, and exposed with great force the fallacy and the infidel tendency of the maxim of many modern reformers—"Do right, and leave consequences to God"—without regard to expediency, the law of benevolence, and the changing circumstances surrounding and controlling events. The sermon was philosophical, logical, earnest, and full of points. It held the audience enthralled throughout, and might be repeated with profit in all the Churches.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

This is the crowning characteristic of Oberlin College, and the Twenty-fifth Annual Commencement of the Ladies' Department was held Tuesday afternoon. As usual, the liveliest interest was felt in the exercises. Every part of the great Church was crowded, and many could not obtain even a standing place within its spacious walls. The spectacle among the Three Hundred Young Ladies in pure white entered in procession and took their seats in the circular gallery in the rear of the platform, was one of surpassing loveliness. The following was the

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

Essay—"Do noble things, not dream them all day long." HAZEL M. AUSTIN, Oberlin.

Essay—"Social Refinement." ABIGAIL S. ATWATER, Oberlin.

Essay—"The Relation of the Beautiful to our Moral Nature." LOUISE M. CHURCH, Vermontville, Mich.

Essay—"Contrasted Scenes." JANE A. COY, Sylvania.

Essay—"The True Idea of Contentment." EMILY E. GILMAN, Hiram, N. Y.

Essay—"Words and Actions." EVELINE G. GRAY, Seville.

Essay—"The Worship of the Ideal." ANNE A. HALL, Oberlin.

Essay—"The True Woman." JANE R. HARTSHORN, West Lodi.

Essay—"The Morning Dawns." SARAH E. HOYT, Henry, Ill.

Essay—"The Transplanted Flower." RUTH A. JACKSON, Kenton Square, Pa.

Essay—"Life in a Stocking." FRANCES A. LEE, Garrettsville.

Essay—"Be Firm." CHARLOTTE M. MC CONOUGH, Edinburg, N. Y.

Essay—"Beauty in Life." MARY REICHER, Burlington, Iowa.

Essay—"The Teacher an Artist." NELLIE A. ROOF, Oberlin.

Essay—"Night brings out the Stars." DIANA S. SHATTUCK, Henrietta.

Poem—"The Birth and Death of the Leaf." MINNIE E. TENNEY, Amherstville.

Essay—"Morning and Evening." LUCY A. WARREN, Stockbridge, N. Y.

The Essays and Poem, all highly creditable, were announced by Mrs. DARROW, Principal of the Ladies' Department, and were read by the authors with voice and enunciation so distinct as to be generally heard by the vast and attentive audience. Music, vocal and instrumental, conducted by Prof. FROST, added its zest to the Exercises. At the close President FISKE in his fatherly way delivered the Diplomas to the Lady Graduates, and Benediction was pronounced by Professor FROST.

Emancipation in Virginia.

The Richmond *Whig* of the 17th published in full the address in favor of the abolition of slavery in Western Virginia, which was issued eleven years ago by Dr. Henry Ruffner, at the request of a number of gentlemen, among whom was Hon. John Letcher, the present candidate for the succession to Governor Wise. It enters into a thorough examination of every branch of the subject, and, while free from fanaticism, and emanating from slaveholders, is one of the most powerful anti-slavery documents ever written. The following paragraph will give some idea of its character:

Some Virginia politicians proudly—yes, proudly, fellow citizens—our old Commonwealth, the Mother of States! These enlightened patriots might pay her a still higher compliment by calling her *The Grandmother of States*. For our part, we are grieved and mortified to think of the less and laggard condition of our venerable Mother. Her black children have sucked her dry, that now, for a long time past, she has not milk enough for her offspring, either black or white.

The Minnesota Senatorship.

The fraudulent attempt of the Minnesota Legislature to choose a successor to General Shields, our readers are aware, signally failed, notwithstanding the advice of the Cincinnati *Enquirer* and other "law-abiding" counselors. Instead of complying with this evil advice, though the Legislature has a Democratic majority in both branches—the proposition was rejected, after a desperate struggle; and the following resolution on the subject was adopted by the House:

"Resolved, That the course pursued by the members of the present Legislature to enforce the election of a Senator of the United States, at the present session, to fill the seat occupied by Gen. Shields, for the purpose of advancing corrupt designs, and to elect a Lecompton Senator as a Democratic measure, is a violation of the National Administration, is alike a violation of the sentiments of the people of Minnesota, and a dishonor to the honor, integrity and dignity of the State."

Our National Platform.

We cannot believe the Cincinnati *Gazette* seriously to suggest the policy of laying aside our platform altogether, and going into the next Presidential election without any common principle of action. We think the Editor must have misapprehended the views of Senator Wade on that subject. Aside from his declared doctrine, the Republican party has no existence. Let them repudiate their principles and we do not believe that five hundred of the five thousand Republicans in Senator Wade's county would go to the polls; indeed we should expect Ashland to become a Locomotive county.

Some Editors speak as though they were unacquainted that our party is based upon the fundamental doctrine, the seminal truth which lie at the very foundation of our religion; upon the doctrine which give tone, and character to the moral conduct of mankind—These doctrines are deeply imbedded in the human heart and from them the reflecting and conscientious portion of our community will not depart.

When the *Gazette* speaks of "abolition," it ought to define the term, in order that its readers may know what it means. The term is generally used as a vague, meaningless epithet, not adapted to the description of those great truths which exist in all time, and are recognized by all Christian people. Neither the "Gazette," nor the "Commercial," states the specific modification of our platform which they demand; and we therefore place it before our readers and respectfully ask those Editors to inform us particularly what amendment they desire!

On examining the instrument it will be seen that it is entirely based upon the right of every human being to live—to that liberty which is necessary to cherish and protect the existence which God has given—to attain knowledge and enjoy happiness. We do not say that every person shall vote, or hold office; but we do say he shall be permitted to live, to procure food, raiment and habitation, to protect his life and defend his person against murderers, pirates, robbers, and those who would beat and flog him; that the natural right of self-defense shall not be taken from him; that as moral elevation and preparation for Heaven, constitutes the object of human existence, he shall be permitted to improve his intellectual and moral nature, and bring himself into harmony with the laws of his Creator.

This constitutes the substance of our platform. The other parts of it are merely deductions from these primal doctrines. The Democratic party, speaking through the Supreme Court, assert that black men have no rights which white men are bound to respect. The issue is thus made up and entered upon the record. Men have taken positions on one side or the other; indeed there is no neutral ground. Our contemporaries certainly hold with the Democratic party, that white men are not bound to respect the right of black men to live—that the white man may murder or rob the black man without incurring moral guilt; or, they hold that all men are endowed by their Creator with the inalienable right to life, liberty and happiness.

The Locomotive stand before God and mankind, insisting that white men may murder, rob, beat, and flog, colored men, without incurring moral guilt. The Republicans deny those heathenish doctrines and adhere to those of Jefferson, of Hancock, of the Adams' and their associates. There are the doctrines put forth in the State Journal, as well as in the Republican platform. We understand the *Gazette* to characterize them as "abolition doctrines." We hope to see them maintained, and made perpetual, by whatever name they may be called. In saying this, the Republican party merely insists that the constitutional powers of Government should be exerted for freedom, for justice, and not for slavery and crime. That in our territory, up to the high seas, and wherever Congress holds exclusive jurisdiction, its powers shall be put forth to protect all men, without distinction of color or condition, against usurpers, tyrants, pirates, and murderers. The historian will in future speak in plain and unmistakable language on this subject. The Democrats of the present day will be regarded as advocating the right to murder black men, to rob them, and to degrade them. We think they should be so spoken of at this time. We therefore would see them justice, and frankly assign them their real position with the same frankness that we maintain our own.

A Boston Widow vs. A Gay Deceiver.

Readers will remember the marriage tale of William H. Carr, of Kentucky, to Mrs. A. P. Briggs, of Columbus, Ohio, the result of advertising for a wife in the New York Times. Carr it will be further remembered received letters from 101 women—candidates for his hand. From the lot, he finally selected the Columbus widow.

It turns out that Carr was something of a gay deceiver, and that he made written professions of love and well-to-do to the ladies of the Ashland Kentuckian. On May 17th, in noticing the rich correspondence of similar match, says:

There hangs a veritable tale, and it may be possible, a suit for breach of promise, with exemplary damages. Mrs. Pauline W. Carroll, a Boston lady, now sojourning in Greece county, has put us in possession of a series of letters, which clearly prove said Carr to be a "gay deceiver!" a fellow who loves not wisely, but too well! Since the announcement of the villain's marriage, while under solemn promise to her, Mrs. Carroll has concluded to bring suit against Carr for breach of promise and damage to her tender affections. As the lady is young and handsome, and has the documents to prove the treachery and false dealing of the two amorists, Carr it is more than probable that a Kentucky jury will give her exemplary damages, and that the reprobate overcast will be made to pay to the tune of thousands. The result of his daring attempt to trifle with the tender affections of young womanhood, will sadly interfere with the honey moon and domestic felicity anticipated by Carr in his union with the Columbus widow.

Honorable Conduct of the Sumners.

It will be remembered by our readers that Mr. Albert Sumner, of Newport, R. I., his wife and child, some time since, were shipwrecked and all undoubtedly perished. By the presumptions of law, the wife and child died first, and the husband became entitled to the property. Mrs. S. was a daughter of the late Walter Channing, of this city, and enjoyed the income of a large estate. Under these circumstances, more than \$30,000 became legally vested in the late Mr. Sumner, although his wife came to his mother and sister and his two brothers—Chas. Sumner, our Senator, and George Sumner, Esq. The estate was administered upon by Mr. Geo. Sumner, and with the consent of all the parties, the whole of this property which had descended from his wife, has been surrendered to her relations. It gives us great pleasure to record an act so honorable to the parties, and prompted by a sense of justice and equity.—*Western Transcript*.

The Fall returns of the cemeteries.

New Orleans for the month ending Saturday evening the 14th, show 457 deaths, of which 286 were of yellow fever. The following table prepared by the New Orleans Crescent, shows the growth of the fever and the comparative mortality since the fever began:

to the tens of thousands. The result of the attempt to trifle with the tender feelings of a young womanhood, will sadly in the future be the very moon and domestic life of Carr in his union with the unfortunate widow.

Terrible Conduct of the Sumners.

It is to be remembered by our readers that in the summer of 1872, Mr. S. L. I., his wife and four children, died, and the property of the estate was divided. By the provisions of law, the wife and child died first, and the husband became entitled to the property of the estate. S. was a daughter of the late Walter S., of this city, and enjoyed the income of the estate. Under these circumstances,